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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

DECEMBER, 1855.

THE TRUE REMEDY.

After the experience for ages of the sufferings, the desolations, the expenses and the demoralization of war; when Peace Societies in Europe and America have for forty years exposed its criminality, its uselessness, its contrariety to the Gospel, by which the sentiments of philanthropic Christians have been greatly modified; when even Sovereigns and Statesmen have come to profess a reluctance to it; it might have been reasonably supposed, that after thirty years of general peace, of mutual commerce, of advanced science and the multiplication of beneficent institutions, the renewal of war upon a great scale would have been a political impossibility,—the rumor of it a romance of the past: the reality of it upon the Eastern Continent has overwhelmed us with astonishment as with grief. True indeed we have been before startled by the plunge of our own country into the war with Mexico; that was sprung upon us by surprise; had not the sympathy of our moral and respected citizens, and derived its chief support from a portion of our land into which the demonstrations of the friends of peace had not penetrated: we now see a war waged by the most enlightened part of the most civilized nations of Europe; sustained by popular applause, in all the horrors of former barbarian chivalry.

From this event we learn a solemn lesson: the war spirit is not to be exorcised by the methods we have tried. Irresistible demonstrations of the evils and sins of war have been spread through the million pages of the press, over every land of Christendom; and martial history, and poetry and the fleeting journals of the day yet soar above them in malignant triumph: crowded popular assemblies and Conventions of the learned and talented of the age have resolved and protested against war in every form; but these voices have died away in the breeze of popular excitement, or are unheard in the din of conflicting powers: pacific appeals to Sovereigns and rulers, have been received with encouraging courtesy; but not a single arrogant demand on a foreign power has been mitigated in conformity to them; the danger to peace, to liberty, to safety, to morality, of military force, has been fully pointed out; and Europe still throngs with innumerable armies. Neither the bur-

den of ruinous taxation, nor the acute sorrows of the bereaved, nor the impoverishment of labor has sufficed to check the mad passions of international strife. What more could have been done than has been done, by the friends of peace, in the direction they have taken ; and yet a tremendous war on as slight a pretence, and as cruel and destructive as ever was undertaken, has been desolating and degrading Europe.

There is still one power competent to subdue this dreadful, this atrocious practice ; that power is Christianity, which is yet to be vigorously applied to it. The friends of peace have indeed brought the light of the Gospel to bear on this subject, but they have been few, and their voice is unheard : the great body of those who profess to minister to that revelation, are not merely silent on its teachings of love and forgiveness, but so pervert it as to make it a source and instrument of war. Among the masses of all people,—even the most corrupt—there is great reverence for whatever is deemed an expression of the will of God ; and so long as the Standards of armies are consecrated by Bishops, and *Te Deums* sung in Churches for victories, and soldiers taught to cross themselves before battle in the name of their patron Saint, it will be in vain to bring any earthly consideration to allay the martial ardor of the nations. They are not Kings and Ministers of State and Generals ; but a nominally Christian Hierarchy which are to be converted by the friends of peace. Let it be seen that the solemn precept of the Son of God, which prohibits the taking of the sword on the penalty of being slain by the sword, is not to be longer overborne by the resurrection of a buried dispensation, setting out as a model, the martial deeds of an Abraham, a Joshua and a David. Purify the Church from the adulteration of the war spirit, and the world will follow with joy in the path of peace. The true Cross only has power to break the sword : let the love teachings of that cross be alone heard from our pulpits and our sanctuaries ; and the Demon of War will retire to that Hades, where now are entering, and will repose forever, the idolatries, the superstitions, the cruelties and other corruptions of paganism.

FIGHTING CHRISTIANS !

I should be much surprised, if any thing of the kind *could* surprise me, to find even intelligent, devout Christians so insensible as they generally are to the utter incompatibility of war with Christianity. I meet this insensibility at almost every turn of my intercourse with them, and find some strange proofs of it in most of the religious journals I read.

Take an example copied into the *Sailor's Magazine*, for August, from a religious periodical published in Edinburgh—an account of the death of two English *Christian* officers while *fighting* in the Crimea. The first is that of Captain Craigie, whose early conversion is somewhat minutely described ; and whose subsequent example is held up as worthy of all commendation.—While returning from the trenches in the afternoon (March 13th) for rest, he was instantly killed by the explosion of a shell. “ Anticipating a single